

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1118

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR POPOV ON CHANGES IN BULGARIAN FOREIGN
OFFICE LINE-UP

REF: SOFIA 840

1. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION APRIL 20, BULGARIAN
AMBASSADOR TO US, LUBOMIR POPOV, NOW VISITING SOFIA,
OFFERED FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON RECENT CHANGES IN
BULGARIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP:

A. KONSTANTIN TELLALOV: PROBABLY WILL GET AN EMBASSY.
"DO NOT CONCLUDE HE HAS BEEN DEMOTED UNTIL YOU SEE WHICH
EMBASSY HE GETS." ASKED IF TELLALOV MIGHT BE MARIY
IVANOV'S REPLACEMENT IN BERLIN, POPOV MERELY SMILED.

B. TRAYKOV-IVANOV SWITCH: THE QUESTION OF FURTHER
AND DEEPER CEMA INTEGRATION IS NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT
ASPECT OF BULGARIAN FOREIGN POLICY, SAID POPOV. IT
WAS FELT NECESSARY TO HAVE A VERY STRONG FIGURE IN THE
FIRST DEPUTY SLOT TO FOLLOW THIS. IVANOV'S CREDENTIALS
FOR THAT JOB ARE PERFECT. TRAYKOV MIGHT GET AN
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EMBASSY; JUST AS EASILY MIGHT RETURN TO PARTY WORK.

C. LYUBOMIR PETROV: WILL GET AN EMBASSY.

D. ZHIVKO POPOV: HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL--
"THE NATHANIEL DAVIS OR CAROL LAISE OF OUR SERVICE."
WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THAT POSITION, BUT NOW HAS THE
DEPUTY MINISTER TITLE TO GIVE HIM A BIT MORE CLOUT.

E. BORIS TSVETKOV: REPLACES LYUBOMIR PETROV.

2. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR POPOV'S OBSERVATIONS ARE THOSE
OF A SHREWD INSIDER, BUT HIS COMMENTS ON TELLALOV
AND THE TRAYKOV-IVANOV SWITCH APPEAR TO BE BASED
ON DEDUCTION RATHER THAN SPECIFIC INFORMATION.
FELDMAN

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